

Board of Health Meeting – August 7th, 2019

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager

Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Continuing to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force to plan monthly meeting agendas, identify potential initiatives, contact presenters, and invite new agencies to participate.
 - Mayor's Opioid Task Force released a PSA regarding the concern of historical increased rates of nonfatal opioid-related overdoses during the summer months.
 - *Next Meetings: August 26th from 5:30-6:30pm at City Hall*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee members released a report highlight historic increase in opioid-related overdoses in Lowell during the summer months. Topics that the Subcommittee are continuing to look into include specific risk factors of opioid overdose associated with winter weather, effects of being administered Narcan and not seeking immediate medical attention, and an update on HIV and opioid use in Lowell.

Smart Policing Initiative Grant and Lowell CO-OP

- Clinical Recovery Specialist position for the Lowell CO-OP was reposted after the initial posting did not produce a candidate recommendation.
- Lainnie and Maricia continue to participate in Homeless Outreach meetings to discuss coordination of care and brainstorm ways to improve the homeless population's access to housing services.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Actively working with Division staff to write and edit content for the new DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org website. Website launch date is TDB.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)
Michael Hall, M.Ed., MOAPC Coordinator
(July 1st- August 9th 2019)

Strategy One (implement Life Skills Training across the cluster): *Life Skills Training is an evidenced based prevention curriculum supported by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.*

- Facilitated Life Skills Certification training at Place of Promise in Centerville. Place of Promise is a non-profit recovery organization which also provides day care activities for Centerville youth as well as children of the patrons of the facilities. This training was held at no cost to Place of Promise and will potentially provide effective prevention training to 40-60 youth ranging in age from seven to eighteen years of age.

Grant Strategy Two (coordination and promotion of education on harm reduction strategies):

- Coordinating support with community providers to promote and provide overdose prevention and awareness training and resources to high risk populations. This includes Narcan and opioid overdose awareness training and post overdose follow up visits in several communities.

Additional activities include:

- Active participation in Billerica Substance Abuse Prevention committee.
- Facilitated planning meetings for the second Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium scheduled for December 6th, 2019. The planning committee is chaired by MOAPC coordinator.
- Tri-Chair of Greater Lowell Health Alliance Substance Use Prevention task force. Recently submitted updated substance use resource cards for printing. Expecting cards available for distribution by September. I also introduced transportation to treatment resource for the GLHA catchment area; several towns have provided grant funding to assist making this a viable resource to Greater Lowell.
- Began work with bringing substance misuse awareness and assistance to business leaders in the Merrimack Valley. Thus far I have elicited verbal commitments of support from BSAS, Rick Green (CEO of 1A Auto), and MOAPC coordinators from around the state. As a new area of concentration, there is no further data at this time.
- Ongoing planning and work in development of the revised Drugfreegreaterlowell.org website
- Collaborating with Heroin Is Killing My Town, a nonprofit opioid abuse awareness organization, to organize the Merrimack Valley Overdose Awareness Day event in Lowell on August 31st.
- Provided ongoing consultation to Rides to Recovery organization in raising local grant funding. If successful, Rides to Recovery, a cost free resource to transport those in need to detox and treatment, is funded by area grants (across the state) and fund raising events. We are attempting to qualify for a grant from within the Greater Lowell area.
- Ongoing planning for next Unwanted Medication and Sharps take back event being held on August 13th at 341 Pine Street from 2pm-6pm.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)
Lauren Keisling, Outreach Health Educator

Strategy One (social media and education dissemination to high school-aged youth re: sharing prescription medications):

PFS Social Media Campaign:

-PFS Coordinator and Coalition finalized the PFS FY20 work plan, which includes the creation and dissemination of a social media campaign focusing on social norms of prescription medication misuse amongst Lowell high school-aged individuals and providing refusal skill examples. These informational posts will be posted and shared across community partners' social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to target area youth.

UMASS Lowell (UML) Collaboration:

-PFS Coordinator was asked to join the new UMASS Lowell AOD Task Force that brings together University staff from varying departments to initiate changes to current policies about alcohol and other drug use as well as implement mainstay prevention programming for the student population.

Strategy Two (social media and education dissemination to parents/guardians and high school-aged youth re: proper disposal and storage):

“Help Keep Our Kids Safe” Campaign

-The LHD is hosting its next Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day event on Tuesday, August 13th

-PFS Coordinator is working with a graphic designer to create a two-sided handout giving tips on the proper storage of prescription medication as well as identifying medication disposal sites in Lowell. This handout will be distributed to the general public and parents/caregivers who have children in Lowell Public Schools.

Community Outreach:

-LHD Substance Abuse and Prevention staff are attending the Lowell Folk Festival on July 27th and 28th alongside the Lowell Fire Department to provide information on the upcoming Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day event as well as the Syringe Collection Program.

Monthly Meeting:

- Next PFS Meeting is scheduled for 8/28 from 1:00PM-2:00PM at the Lowell Health Department.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP)
Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor

Lowell CO-OP Data

--	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Total 2019
Total Encounters	78	76	32	47	88	58	379
Unique Encounters	--	37	28	29	52	34	180
Initial Interaction	--	9	6	9	17	3	44
OD Follow-Up	2	8	9	11	17	3	50
Section 35	2	1	0	1	5	1	10
Clinical Clients	7	7	5	4	3	2	28
Disseminate Narcan	0	0	3	6	13	4	26
SUD Treatment	11	15	14	12	14	14	80
Medical Treatment	0	1	0	5	3	4	13
Other Services	7	1	2	8	4	8	30
Misc. Outreach	--	--	--	--	--	156	156

Outreach and Educational Events

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Attendance
7-18-19	Educational Presentation	Lowell House: SOAP Program	CO-OP Services	6
7-23-19	Educational Presentation	Men's Recovery Home	CO-OP Services	Pending

Relationship Building

Date	Organization	Relationship Building
7-15-19	Victory Programs: Supportive Services	Conference call with Director of HOPWA Services to learn about Supportive Services.
7-18-19	Homeless Outreach Meeting hosted by CTI, Inc.	Substance Abuse Coordinator, CO-OP Supervisor, and CO-OP attended to discuss coordination of homelessness efforts.
7-29-19	Veteran's Association (Bedford, MA) and Veterans Services (City of Lowell)	CO-OP Supervisor and CO-OP met with Director of Veteran Services and Rita Paulino of Bedford VA Medical Center

Additional:

- Vacant Clinical Recovery Specialist (CRS) Position: Health Department has reposted the CRS position after being unsuccessful in finding a candidate recommendation.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP), **CONTINUED**
Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor

The format of the Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) Board of Health report has been changed as part of continuing efforts to streamlining documentation, and continued refinement of the data collection and dissemination process. Please find definitions below relevant to the new format.

Definitions	
Total Encounters	Total number of clients that Lowell CO-OP has engaged with regarding opioid use disorder and opioid overdose.
Unique Encounters	Total number of unduplicated clients that Lowell CO-OP has engaged with by month.
Initial Interaction	Total number of initial interactions that the Lowell CO-OP has had with new clients.
OD Follow-Up	Total number of client follow-ups that the Lowell CO-OP engaged in specific to a recent opioid overdose.
Section 35	Total number of instances that the Lowell CO-OP petitioned for a Section 35 or helped a family member/loved one petition for a Section 35.
Clinical Clients	Total number of clients engaged in clinical case management by clinical staff on the Lowell CO-OP.
Disseminate Narcan	Total number of Narcan kits distributed by trained Lowell CO-OP staff.
SUD Treatment	Total number of clients that Lowell CO-OP helped access substance use treatment.
Medical Treatment	Total number of clients that Lowell CO-OP helped access medical treatment.
Other Services	Total number of clients that Lowell CO-OP engaged with to meet additional services/needs areas that are not related to substance use treatment or medical services.
Miscellaneous Outreach	Total number of individuals that Lowell CO-OP engaged with during community outreach that were not CO-OP clients nor was engagement related to substance abuse treatment or opioid overdose. <i>Note: Lowell CO-OP started tracking this data point in June 2019.</i>
Educational Presentation	When two or more Lowell CO-OP members present in a formal or informal manner regarding Lowell CO-OP services, define substance use disorder, and/or identify local resources specific to the population that the Lowell CO-OP is speaking with.
Collaboration Meeting	When members of the Lowell CO-OP meet with police, public health, schools, treatment providers, and/or community organizations specifically to share information, build rapport, address a common needs area, and/or collaborate regarding a shared client.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator (SCPC)

Outreach and Building Community Partnerships:

- Partnerships
 - Lowell Police Department: Summer Movie Nights
 - Office of Planning and Development: Riverwalk Improvements & Reopen Kerouac Park
 - Center for Hope & Healing: Youth Community Clean-up & Sharps Education
- Community Agencies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Center for Hope & Healing ○ Department of Planning & Development ○ Lowell National Historical Park ○ Lowell Street Department ○ Community Teamwork Inc. ○ CCF Ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City of Lowell: Water Department ○ Lowell Canal Cleaners ○ Merrimack River Watershed Council ○ Lowell Police Department ○ Lowell Parks Department ○ Lowell Housing Authority
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Community Events Attended:

- 7/20 Canal Clean-up: Sharps Education & Clean-up

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eagle Park • Fort Hill Park • McPherson Park • Sampas Pavilion • Rynne Beach • Greenhalge Elementary School • St Louis School • Rogers School • Francis Gate Park • Roberto Clemente field | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N Common Park • S Common Park • River Front Park • Merrimack River Bike Path • La Lachuer Park • Rogers Street Bridge • Jack Kerouac Park • Point Park • Aiken St Bridge |
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Syringe Collection Activity

Total Number Of...	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	7/1/19 – 7/22/19	Total
Discarded syringe pick-up requests	8	6	8	17	39
Incoming calls for syringe pick-up requests	6	21	20	13	60
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded syringe pick-up requests	49	240	334	187	810
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes in the community	9	20	25	29	83
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	304	967	488	552	2311
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	11	75	49	135